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A Portrait

By

M. Louisa Milbank

L.R.

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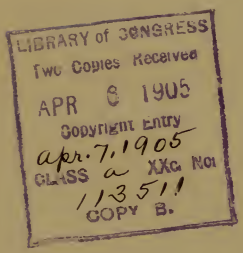
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A Portrait

By

M. Louisa Milbank

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by
M. LOUISA MILBANK

A PORTRAIT

By

M. LOUISA MILBANK

I 'd paint his face with all the glory of the brightest
day—
I 'd paint his thought with all the mystery of the
darkest night.
Oh, blessed Night, what charm and bliss is hidden!
Oh, blessed Day, what joy the morn has bidden!
I 'd paint his smile a dazzling sunbeam's ray,
His mouth with tender lines and curves could say
No evil—there no wrong could stay—one hope,
One faith, one love—an all-abounding love—
Love that should have full sway.

His Laughter, too,
Should have a place upon that canvas, true.
Oh! I would paint with faith and love that laugh-
ter!
Like tiny waves that followed fast, and faster,
And rippling make that canvas reach the sky,

Like birds we see with wings that heavenward fly;
That voice should reach the angels in their songs,
Should join in melody the heavenly throngs.

I 'd paint his eyes to see the throbbing heart,
To read 'twixt lines of many a weary pilgrim's chart;
I 'd paint those eyes, so tender, loving, keen,
To look into your very soul, I ween.
If such things could be, but alas! are not.
Who knows but He alone who fashioned us?
And as we are we shall not be forgot.

I 'd paint his heart as true as tempered steel,
A heart that 's burnt and purified by fires
Unquenchable, and so is glorified.
His hands should be as if to heal and bless;
A touch so tender, almost a caress;
Never too weary to hear all human woes—
A sympathy so sacred, God, He knows.

And over all I 'd paint an armor bright
Of purest gold, bedecked with jewels old,
So rich, so rare, that all the world could see
That I would give of wealth untold that none
Should know my knight—not one—my knight—
But me.

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